of food processing units, marketing etc.

Deep Sea Fishing

216. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent fisheries development scientists have suggested that deep sea marine resources should be the focus of future commercial exploitation of the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether these experts have felt that exploitation of deep and high seas for fishing is still in its infancy; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage deep sea fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Out of a potential yeild of 3.9 million tons of marine fishery reosurces in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the present level of exploitation is about 2.4 million tons mostly from in-shore areas upto 50 Metres depth. The contribution from deep sea fishing is about 1 per cent of the total marine production. Since vast areas in the deep sea are unexploited, harvesting of resources from the deep sea areas would be the main target for future developmental strategies.

(c) The information is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Encourage deep sea fishing

(i) Augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels.

(ii) Provision of 33 percent subsidy on the cost of indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels.

(iii) Provision of loan facility on soft terms by Shipping Credit and Inevstment Company of India Limited.

(iv) Systematic and intensive survey of fishing resources in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

(v) Augmentation of harbour facilities at major and minor ports.

(vi) Subsidy on diesel and oil to the exporter of marine products.

(vii) Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone and by Indian owned vessels in the territorial waters.

(viii) Training of deep sea fishing operatives for manning the fishing vessels.

Food Processing Units in Vidarbha

217. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any studies regarding the potentiality of orange production and its processing industry in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra with a view to promote exports;

(b) the number of orange processing units which are functioning in the country and how many of them are in Vidarbha and what is their production; and

(c) whether such processing units can be motivated to explore newer techniques of orange processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) This Ministry has not made any specific study in this regard.

(b) and (c) A number of units processing fruits and vegetables particularly those manufacturing juices, juice concentrates, squashes, and jams can process oranges. However, there are four large scale units in the country located in Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Punjab who produce citrus juices and juice concentrates including the one unit of Maharashtra Agro-Industry Corporation Ltd. at Nagpur. The production of orange products by the fruits and vegetable processing units is not monitored separately. Adoption of new techniques by the units for orange processing is dependent on the economic viability of such processes.

National Policy in Food Processing

218. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce national policy on Food Processing;

(b) if so, details of the main features of the policy;

(c) details of projects, schemes to be initiated during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) details of employment growth and export earning projections as a result of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of food processing industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes both in rural and urban areas, reduce post-harvest losses, establish productive linkages between industry and the farmers, increase exports of processed foods and generally support the productive efforts of agriculture and allied activities.

(c) and (d) The summary of schemes formulated for implementation during the Eighth Plan is given in the enclosed statement. (see below). It is estimated that the direct and indirect employment during the Eighth Plan period will increase by one million man years; and the export of processed food will increase from the present level of about Rs. 2500 Crores to Rs. 6000 Crores by the end of the Plan.

Statement

SUMMARY OF PLAN SCHEMES

A. GRAIN PROCESSING SECTOR.

1. Post Harvest Technology Centre, IIT, Kharagpur.
2. Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur.
3. Regional Extension Service Centres.
4. Research and Development Schemes.
5. Rice Milling Machinery and Allied Equipments Testing Centres.
6. Modernisation of Rice Mills.
7. Setting up of Food Engineering Centre.

B. FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROCESSING.

1. Scheme for setting up food processing and training centres in the rural areas.
2. Scheme for assistance for establishment of F and VP units.
3. Scheme for strengthening backward linkages between processors and growers. Testing Centres.
4. Scheme for assistance for development of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and processing.
5. Assistance for development and processing of Hops.